

International Association of Judges – Working Group on Assistance to Judges

The following is a brief report on the activities of the IAJ's Working Group on Assistance to Judges, prepared for the Annual Meeting of the IAJ in Baku, Azerbaijan in October 2025.

As the Chair of the Working Group, I would like to thank all of the members of our Working Group for their consistent dedication to fulfilling our mandate – to provide assistance to individual judges, wherever they may be, in their time of need.

The last meeting of our Working Group took place on September 19, 2025. At that time, we discussed several tasks that we would like to achieve over the next year. Two of those that are more immediate in nature are the following.

First, each member of our Working Group will compile a list of resources in their own country that may be resorted to in an effort to provide information and assistance to a judge who needs our help, including but not limited to assistance in relocating to a safer place. Those resources may be governmental, legal organizations, public institutions, and private entities. The idea is to have our Working Group create a template that can then be shared with every association of judges that is a member of the IAJ so that, in turn, each member can do the same for its own country. The end product will be a comprehensive master list of available resources that the IAJ, as a whole, has at its disposal for the benefit of a judge who needs our help.

Second, in an effort to be more responsive to individual judges who are in real danger and need assistance to relocate to a safer place, including but not limited to two specific examples currently of persons in Afghanistan (whom I will not name in this report for security and safety reasons), three of the members of our Working Group have kindly agreed to take the lead on trying to find a solution: Cynthia Rufe of the United States of America, Monica Mastrandrea of Italy, and Natacha Aubeneau of France. Cynthia has been a most valuable source of information concerning the plights of these specific persons in Afghanistan. Monica is uniquely suited to provide our Working Group with a vision of what might be possible in her country. Natacha is going to work on a draft questionnaire that will be reviewed by our Working Group and which, once it is finalized, will be sent to all members of the IAJ with a view to identifying those member countries that are

better positioned to help individual judges and their families who are in need of relocation.

The overall message that I would like to convey to all of our delegates is that this Working Group is not sitting idle. We are an eclectic group of judges from all parts of the IAJ map, and we have specific projects that we have undertaken and which we are committed to bringing to fruition.

If you have suggestions for our Working Group, or if you would like to join our Working Group, please speak to me or any member of the Working Group. A list of all of our members, with contact information, is available from the Secretariat.

Thank you. Enjoy the Annual Meeting and your time in Baku!

Clayton J. Conlan

Canada

Chair of the Working Group on Assistance to Judges

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